

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT 25X1

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Reorganization of schools:

- a. According to a decree of the Ministry of Education dated 13 September 1952, the nine-year and eleven-year schools came into being on 1 September 1953. The nine-year school is a fusion of former elementary schools and three classes of junior high schools. The eleven-year school replaces elementary schools and high schools and has the syllabus of the three former types of schools. It ends with a high school certificate examination which is an admission requirement for universities. University courses now last for five years.
- b. In the school year 1952-53 the high school course was shortened by one year. After the former seventh grade had been completed, students studied during their vacation and took the high school certificate examination in August 1953. Since then the material to be studied has been condensed still further and the final examination is taken in June.
- c. High school study is divided into two branches: classical and technical. Non-elective subjects are: Czech, Russian, mathematics, history, geography, social sciences. From the seventh grade, the following additional subjects are non-elective: natural sciences, another language (English, French or German), drawing, physical training; apart from these the classical branch takes Latin and the technical branch takes descriptive geometry.
- d. Besides the creation of eleven-year schools, other new regulations have been introduced. At the end of each school year, annual examinations are held and passing them is a condition for moving up into a higher grade. Pupils' books were introduced and marks for each subject with any commendations or reprimands are entered regularly. These books have to be signed regularly (each week) by the parents. The quarterly classification is also put into the book and has to be signed by the parents.

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- e. The necessary subjects for high school certificate examinations are Czech, Russian, mathematics, and one elective subject. The examination board consists of the principal, the teachers in the individual subjects, representatives of the Czech Youth Organization (CSM), the Communist Party and the National Committees. Examination is both written and oral.
- f. Pupils are encouraged to form special studies circles for each subject. The participation is not compulsory but the results achieved in these circles are recorded on school certificates.
- g. The condition for admission to universities is an oral interview concerning both politics and the subject to be studied. The interview is, of course, a mere formality since the cadre report of the candidate determines his admission.

2. Pre-military training in schools:

- a. Two hours of military training per week are held within the framework of the physical training classes. Military training is both theoretical and practical and is concluded each school year with two military exercises carried out in presence of military personnel.
- b. The theoretical lessons comprise a theory of arms and shooting, elementary tactical problems, direction finding with the help of maps, army regulations, uniforms, ranks, and first aid.
- c. The first aid course consists of the basic anatomy of the human body and methods of administering first aid. Those who complete these courses are entitled to wear the PZO (Prepared for health defense) badge and to assist in communal health service centers.
- d. The practical pre-military training consists of: cross-country marching with the help of maps and a compass; jumping; fencing; and firing with military air guns and small-caliber rifles. The instruction is given by the physical training instructor or by members of armed forces. Military exercises are carried out in summer or autumn either by a whole school or by several schools together. The conduct of these exercises is supervised by an army officer. In Karlovy Vary an officer with the rank of major conducted the exercises several times. Commanders of the individual companies, platoons, and squads are either teachers or students. Military instructors are attached to these units. Arms are issued by the army authorities. For the purpose of the exercises, the army authorities lend maps, scale 1:25,000, published in 1947. The maps are marked Secret and Confidential. Individual recipients must sign a receipt for the maps and are responsible for them; the maps must be returned after the exercises. Besides the arms and maps the army authorities lend compasses (either an old German type or new wrist compasses with an attachment for ascertaining the time by the position of the sun). Each military exercise is evaluated by the officer in charge.
- e. A military exercise takes usually the following course: The school is divided into three companies. Two companies form the attacking force and one company are the defenders. The defenders take up a position and the attackers have to approach their position by using maps and compasses, deploy and take the position. In addition to this there is shooting at targets and rendering of first aid.

3. Basic military training in universities:

According to the latest regulation of the Ministry of Education the curriculum at universities was extended by one year and students have to do their basic

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military training during their studies. The military training takes ten hours a week. Every student is compelled to take part in the training; each faculty is assigned to one combat arm (for instance, the Agricultural College in Prague has its students assigned to anti-tank artillery). For the training, the students are issued uniforms. During their vacations they undergo training at VVTs (Military training camps). After completing the course, the students are given the rank of second lieutenants.

4. Communist ideology in the school syllabus:

- a. All subjects taught at schools are politically slanted and often greater emphasis is laid on knowing the political implications than on the subject itself. The favorite authors are Fucik, Nezval, Drda, Neumann, Rezac, and other Communists. Lately there has been a strong campaign against Masaryk. In the Russian lessons the supremacy of the USSR in every way is emphasized. In the Russian study circles lectures about the USSR are given, visits to Soviet films organized, and members for the Association of Friends of the Soviet Union are recruited.
- b. Social sciences are the principal subject used for political indoctrination of young people. The subject deals with world events with Communist interpretation, the theory of Marx-Leninism, the economics of a Communist state and its prospective development.
- c. In history classes the Communist conception of history is studied and the historical works of Western authors discredited. Much attention is devoted to the history of the USSR and Czechoslovakia.
- d. In geography classes one whole year is devoted to the USSR and Czechoslovakia and a large number of hours to countries of the Eastern bloc while the Western world is almost completely passed over.
- e. English and French lessons are mostly devoted to teaching the language but the passages in the text books have a definite political tendency, and sometimes extracts from the Daily Worker and L'Humanite are read. Lectures on the history of Great Britain were given outside the syllabus at the special request of the students but the material was carefully selected.
- f. The natural sciences circle studies mainly the Michurin theory of acclimatization.

5. Czechoslovak Youth Association groups at the higher grade schools:

- a. At every third-grade school (students 15 years or more old) a group of the Czechoslovak Youth Association (CSM) was organized. The purpose of this organization is to encourage students to join voluntary working brigades, to increase the student's interest in his studies, and to foster a sense of loyalty among the students.
- b. Members of the school group choose a committee which then becomes the executive organ. This committee deals with proposals to expel students from the school, arranges political instructions, organizes plenary meetings, and has the final word on the admission of new members.
- c. From the high school students, instructors are chosen for the Pioneer organization. Work for the CSM and instructorship in the Pioneer were conditions for admission to higher education. In spite of this, the membership in the CSM existed mostly on paper and, lately, the CSM has shown very little activity.

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d. High school students are also obliged to take part in various kinds of political instructions and each student must work one month of his two months' vacation on a working brigade. If he evades this obligation without a valid reason, he might be excluded from further studies.

6. Transfer of politically unreliable pupils to the PTP:

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Recently the transfer of politically unreliable students to the PTP (Technical auxiliary battalions) was begun. Theological students especially are affected as large numbers of these have been transferred. There is no time limit for service in PTP units and release from this service takes place only after a soldier has been sufficiently politically indoctrinated.

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